

proposed in the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington appear in the index as binomials. For examples, in these Proceedings, Vol. XVII, p. 112, I described *Tetraneuris linearifolia Dodgei*, subsp. nov. ; in the index, p. 185, it is called *Tetraneuris Dodgei*. On pp. 175 and 178, Professor A. Nelson described *Nemexia herbacea melica* and *Erigeron macranthus mirus*; in the index, pp. 182 and 183, they are *Nemexia melica* and *Erigeron mirus*. This is not done accidentally ; I learned through correspondence with Mr. G. S. Miller at the time of the publication of my article, that it was held that what are usually called subspecies should be expressed by binomials, and it was not without protest that I was allowed to publish *T. Dodgei* as a trinomial. While I cannot agree with this view, the position is an intelligible one, and the committee has a right to print the names in any manner it sees fit, in a part of the Proceedings for which the several authors have no responsibility. I take it that the binomials printed as stated must be recognized (in the synonymy or otherwise, according to one's opinion), and should be credited to the publication committee, Messrs. Hay, Miller and White, who may be signified by the symbols H. M. W.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

BOULDER, COLORADO.

REVIEWS

Flora of Los Angeles and Vicinity*

The great area of California, its many climates and other peculiar environmental conditions, give rise to many different floras in the different parts of the state, so that local floras are greatly desired. The flora of the whole state has been only superficially examined and at the present time a compendium of the complete flora is an impossibility. There yet remain many parts to be explored and many groups of plants are but imperfectly understood. For some years to come collectors and students must work earnestly before such a work can be even planned.

* **Abrams, L. R.** *Flora of Los Angeles and Vicinity*. Svo. Pp. xi + 474. Stanford University, Cal., Stanford University Press. 5 Ap 1904.

A popular manual for those students who are satisfied to know the genus to which a plant belongs or who wish only to recognize the great aggregates might be advantageously prepared, but the flora for the real student is yet many years in the future.

In selecting Los Angeles and vicinity as the subject of a local flora, Mr. Abrams has shown discrimination and foresight. His book is the first attempt to classify the plants of that populous and educated center, outside of mere lists of names and localities. The book ought to be much used, but unfortunately he has written it more for the rare scientist than for the numerous amateurs. His adoption of the metric system in a book designed to reach the public will militate against its use. The general public neither knows nor wants to know this system, and many are prejudiced against it because it is foreign. There is not one person in a thousand to whom millimeter, centimeter, etc., convey any idea. This difficulty might be obviated by the introduction of a card showing these dimensions. Reforms that go into the every-day life of an entire people can be only gradually brought about. Those enthusiasts whose ideals lead them to force reforms prematurely have to suffer for their cause.

The book is neatly gotten up in a convenient size, the type and arrangement are good, the families are according to the system of Engler and Prantl, and, in general, the modern American system of nomenclature is used, but not the extreme dividing of families and genera such as prevails in a recent publication. Where changes in generic names occur, the former well-known synonym is always given both in the text and index. In species-making the author has been conservative, especially in some groups that are in great need of revision. In these cases the descriptions are frequently adapted instead of being original. This appears more sensible than giving an original description to a plant whose name is uncertain or to a name where the plant is not distinctly recognized.

Of course it is not possible to include every species within the limits, and so additions will be cropping up all the time. During a brief visit to Pasadena in May I saw *Viola praeorsa* on Mt. Wilson; *Epipactis gigantea* along a small shady stream a short

distance from Pasadena ; *Lithophragma heterophyllum* in a shady canyon near Pasadena ; *Arabis arcuata* on Mt. Wilson. Mr. George B. Grant reports the following : *Polygonum ramosissimum*, *Tissa rubra*, *Reseda lutea*, *Sphaeralcea Fendleri Californica* Parish, *Lupinus Stiversi* and *L. formosus*, *Corethrogyne filaginifolia*, *Avena barbata*, *Salix sessilifolia Hindsiana*, *Monardella macrantha*, *Lavatera assurgentiflora*, *Lepidium latipes*, and *Euphorbia maculata*. These have all been verified by Parish and others.

It is easy to find fault, but too much praise cannot be given to the painstaking, conscientious care that is evident on every page of the book. Those who use it will scarcely have any idea of the great amount of work that falls to every pioneer in a new field.

ALICE EASTWOOD.

PROSPECTUS OF THE WORK OF THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB DURING 1905

The interest of the members and friends of the Club is earnestly solicited in its proposed work for the coming year. During the past decade the Club's scientific work and standing have advanced greatly, placing it among the foremost scientific societies in the world. In the meantime its local work, and the local interest in it and in its proceedings, have not benefited proportionately. In such a society, located in such a community as ours, the number of persons interested as amateurs should be many times greater than that of those professionally interested in botany. The charter and constitution of the Club clearly set forth that one of its principal objects is to extend an interest in botanical subjects, which extension is only possible by leading those not interested to become so. It is hardly to be expected that this interest will be engendered by the presentation alone of the results of abstruse researches in subjects which have as yet developed no popular features. On the other hand, research work almost invariably requires material assistance from without, which can in no other way be so well supplied as by the coöperation of an associated membership. In return for such coöperation, the society should provide matter of instruction and interest of a different character